

What is a Default Judgment?

A default judgment is a judgment entered by the Court granting the other party's request for relief contained in his/her Motion.

Why Am I Getting a Default Judgment?

You are receiving this default judgment because you **did not appear** at your Court hearing after you were served with a witness subpoena OR **you did not answer** the Paternity Complaint within the time you were suppose to answer.

What Does it Mean?

It means the Court granted whatever the state asked for in the Motion or Complaint because you did not answer. The judgment / order lists all the things that the court orders you to do. It is important that you obey this order.

What Shall I Do?

If you disagree with the court's order / judgment you have to ask the Court ***in writing*** to **“vacate” or remove** the default judgment by filing a Motion with the Court. The Motion must list the reason(s) for your request. The law lists as reasons fraud or misrepresentation. Sometimes the Court will “hold” the order until a hearing is held to determine whether fraud or misrepresentation has occurred in the case. There is a time limit for this Motion so please do not delay.

What if the Judgment is not Vacated?

If the judgment or order is not vacated (removed) the list of things that the Court has ordered stands. You will be expected to either do *or* pay whatever that order states.

If it is a Paternity Judgment, *you are* the legal father of this child;

If you were ordered to pay child support and do not pay, the following may happen:

- Your income tax refund may be taken;
- The OCSS may refer you for driver's license suspension;
- a lien or “hold” may be placed on your bank account or your insurance settlement
- Your name may be sent to the credit bureau
- Your lottery winnings may be withheld.

These actions will take place automatically.

**If you have any questions please contact the Office of Child Support Services at:
401-222-2847**

Important information on why you were given a Default Judgment



Department of
Human Services
**OFFICE OF CHILD
SUPPORT SERVICES**
77 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903
401-222-2847
www.cse.ri.gov

DEFAULT JUDGMENT

What does that mean?



Department of Human
Services
**OFFICE OF CHILD
SUPPORT SERVICES**
77 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903
401-222-2847
www.cse.ri.gov